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Title: Regarding increasing incidents of deaths due to dog bite in the country.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam, with your permission, I would like to invite the attention of the Government of India to a very important matter.

In India, about 15 million people are bitten by animals, mostly dogs, I mean the stray dogs, the street dogs. The largest number of rabies death happens in this nation. More than 80 per cent of the rabies death that occur in the whole world is in our nation. Most of them are urban poor or rural poor. Of those who have been bitten by the street dogs or the stray dogs, more than 42 per cent are children below the age of 14 years. Every two seconds, one man or a woman or a child is bitten by a street dog in India. Every hour, two persons die because of rabies. In a nation where the capital punishment still exists, even though the Supreme Court says that it is awarded only in the rarest of the rare cases, we are still hesitant to control the menace of the street dogs. I am not saying about the road accidents where most of the people have been hurt or grievously hurt where some of them have died. Even the pillion riders who are house-wives, women and children have died in road accidents. They have succumbed to the injuries due to road accidents. The incidence of animal bites is 17.4 per one thousand population.

Madam, 174 persons per 10,000 of the population are bitten by dogs. It is very curious to see that before 1998, our local bodies were having the power to eliminate the ferocious dogs which have been infested by Rabies, and the street dogs which have become dangerous. But now, it is a pity that many of the animal lovers, I don't know whether they love their children or not, even in our Parliament compoundâ€¦....(*Interruptions*) More than 30,000 people of our country die every year because of Rabies.

My humble demand, through you, Madam, is that firstly, the Government of India should amend the law for the eradication of ferocious Rabies-infested dogs and the power, which the local bodies were having before 1998, should be given back to them. Secondly - it is very important - free treatment and vaccination should be given to all the Public Health Care Centres. Unless and until we give free treatment, these deaths would occur in future also. My humble request, once again through you, Madam, to the Government of India is that we have to protect our children. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON :

Shri P.K. Biju is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.